

INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS ANALYSIS
MT SAN ANTONIO, CA

DATE: July 12, 2026
TO: The Herald, Church of Alienism
FROM: Howard Stonecipher, Director
SUBJECT: Denali Subglacial Expedition

PROSPECTIVE HERALD SUBMISSION

Denali and the Apparent Astral Plane Beneath the Ice

Submitted for consideration by The Herald.

The Institute recently concluded a nine-month expedition in the Denali region using ground-penetrating radar and complementary geophysical methods beneath glacial ice. The original program concerned ordinary subglacial structure, buried topography, and the preservation of old surfaces.

Several transects returned a broad planar response that did not behave like bedrock, debris, liquid water, or the expected internal layering of ice. Repeated passes from different geometries preserved the feature. The apparent plane remained more laterally coherent than the surrounding geology suggested it should.

The field team adopted the term 'astral plane' informally after other explanations became increasingly cumbersome. I do not recommend treating that name as a conclusion. It is a label for a measurement problem.

Half of the expeditionary personnel did not return. In prior years that would have dominated the report; in the present program it is a substantial improvement in survival rate and should be recorded as such.

The Church has long described certain thresholds as surfaces rather than places. The Denali return is interesting because our instruments likewise indicate something surface-like without giving us a satisfactory answer as to what material defines it.

No excavation through the ice is planned. The plane is more valuable intact than penetrated.

Respectfully,
Howard Stonecipher
Director
Institute for Environmental Systems Analysis